

Latimer, Becky

From: Chris Neely
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 9:50 PM
To: PSC_Contact
Subject: [External] Please vote No to Solar Subsidies and Let the Market drive the demand

I'm Chris Neely I live in Lexington South Carolina and I'm a Dominion energy customer. I've lived in South Carolina my entire life and plan to continue to live here until the lord calls me home. I was originally born and raised in Fairfield County and I have plenty of family across the Midlands and Pee Dee area.

I believe that one of the greatest things about this country and also this state is the belief in the free market system. Capitalism, private property ownership, and ingenuity are important tenants of our society that we've enjoyed over the past several centuries and it has helped make us one of the greatest and most productive societies in history.

The fact is that our government at all levels is increasingly getting more involved in picking winners and losers by helping subsidize certain industries. This corrupts the system and wastes millions if not billions of our taxpayer dollars and it causes distortions in certain areas of the markets that normally would not be there such as the reliance on so much renewable energy. This last example may have led to some of the power outages in the recent winter storm and sever cold weather in Texas.

I'm an outdoorsman and I love to hunt and fish. I love the beauty of this state and I appreciate the beauty of nature. I'm a biology major and although I'm not what some would consider a big environmentalist, I am an environmentalist because I do care out our planet, our country, and our beautiful state. But we should never force change for the sake of change just to say that we feel good about what we did despite the numbers and the logic. Please do not force higher rates and or taxes on our citizens if the desire, need, nor demand for a product is not supported yet by the market forces.

I do not believe that the private rate payers and citizens of this great state should foot the bill in any form one way or another, through taxes or through increased rate charges, to support incentives for those that do want to use solar.

If solar is good and competitive alternative, then let it stand on its own in the free marketplace and more people will turn to it and I may be one of them one day. If solar is going to take part in the production of energy in this state it should also be done so that those that use solar also pay the fair share of upkeep to the system that is being used on.

The driving force behind such an economy as ours is ingenuity, technology, and the willingness to purchase a product to fulfill a need or want. When solar is able to fulfill a need or want and a competitive price someone is willing to pay then it will be a viable option. But that day should be chosen by the market more so than by bureaucrats, special interest groups, and lobbyists. I am not a lobbyist. I'm just a private citizen, a proud lifelong South Carolinian and these are my thoughts.

Sincerely,
 Chris Neely

1. I wish to thank the members of this hearing for all you do for the citizens of South Carolina! I know that your commitment to the public service commission is not an easy one.
2. I am a Conservative as are both my South Carolina House Representative and Senator. They claim to be conservative and I know they don't support this progressive green stuff on the backs of their constituents or any other South Carolinian Taxpayer!!! Isn't this commission supposed to answer to them?
3. Environmentalists say that wind and solar can replace natural gas and coal to meet our energy needs while reducing carbon emissions. One recent prime example happened in Texas this past winter. They refuse to believe that during the storm, electricity generated from wind and solar decreased 52%, while, electricity generated from natural gas increased 72%. (Wayne Christain, 03-19, 2021 6:23pm ET, The Wall Street Journal, "Texas' Blackouts Blew In on the Wind")
4. I realize that one choice always comes at the expense of another. The problem with solar power, is the monetary investment is placed in unreliable renewable sources. This has replaced investment in electricity generation from reliable energy sources.... AND the investment decisions were made by politicians in Washington DC, not voluntarily by individuals in a free market. In July, The Trump Administration recovered 200 million in taxpayer dollars loaned to a failed solar energy start up by the Obama administration. A settlement was reached by both Obama and Trump administrations to shore up the flailing solar energy project, which promised to be revolutionary but ended in bankruptcy. This includes the failed solar panel start up Solyndra. (Charles Fain Lehman, 7-30-20, 1:37pm. The Washington Free Beacon, "Trump Administration Recovers 200 Million.....")
5. As a conservative, I believe in conservation and support renewable energy and a successful and profitable uncorrupted marketplace. More and more South Carolinians working families, Seniors, and those living on fixed incomes are being forced to pay higher fees to fund subsidies for those few who can afford solar panels.
6. Laws and regulations that allow solar customers who use the existing power infrastructure for delivery to their homes and sell power back to the power provider or co-op, but do not require these solar customers to pay for the lines or maintenance that regular customers pay, are simple unfair
7. You are the Public Service Commission and your responsibilities lie with the public, not just the elites who put solar panels on their roof to look like they care about the Green movement....
8. Taxpayer and rate payer funded solar or other renewable energy subsidies are a key part of the Bernie Sanders/AOC "Green New Deal" agenda. Funding elitist pet projects on the backs of average Americans. This "Green New Deal" appears to be called Green because of money, not the Green Mother Nature provides continuously!